

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [0001] as follows:

This application is a divisional application of prior application No. 09/953,159, which was filed on 17 September, 2001. The present application claims priority to Japanese patent application of Fujita et al, filed September 26, 2000, No.2000-293164, and Japanese patent application of Fujita et al, filed September 26, 2000, No.2000-293166, the entirety of each is hereby incorporated into the present application by this reference.

Please amend paragraph [0068] as follows:

As shown in Figs.2 to 4, 10A and 10B, the airbag 11 has an opening 11a through which the expansion gas flows. A cross section of the airbag 11 at the time of expansion is of substantially ellipse spherical shape. In the case of this embodiment, as shown in Figs.10A and 10B, the airbag 11 is a flat airbag using two cloths D1 and D2. That is, the airbag 11 is formed by flattening and superposing the cloths D1 and D2 on each other and by connecting the outer peripheries of the cloths D1 and D2 with each other by sewing or the like. Each of the cloths D1 and D2 is formed by cutting a weave such as polyamide string, polyester string or the like into a circular shape. The opening 11a is formed at its periphery with a plurality of mounting holes 11b. A bolt 12a of a retainer 12 is inserted through each of the mounting holes 11b. The retainer 12 is for holding the airbag 11 on the bag holder 50, and is substantially annular in shape. ~~Bent~~Vent holes 11c and 11c are formed at portions of the airbag 11 away from the opening 11a.

Please amend paragraph [0075] as follows:

The ceiling wall 15 is disposed such as to cover an upper portion of the boss B between the covering layers 7 of the spokes SL, SR, and SB. Portions 21, 22, and 23 (front outer periphery 21, left outer periphery 22 and right outer periphery 23) adjacent to spaces AF, AL, and AR between the spokes SL, SR, and SB are disposed on an outer periphery of an upper surface of the ceiling wall 15. These front outer periphery 21, left outer periphery 22 and right outer periphery 23 are downwardly curved. An opening forming portion 19 is formed in a portion of the ceiling wall 15 which portion is surrounded by the general portions 41L, 41R, and 41B of the side wall 40. The opening forming portion 19 forms one opening through which the airbag 11 at the time of expansion can project. Three spoke side extending portions 16 (16L, 16R, and 16B) are formed around the opening forming portion 19. The spoke side extending portions 16L, 16R, and 16B are disposed such as to smoothly connect the covering layers 7 of the spokes SL, SR, and SB. A substantially cylindrical pushing portion 17 is disposed on lower surfaces of the spoke side extending portions 16L, 16R, and 16B. The pushing portion 17 abuts against a mounting piece 53 of the bag holder 50 that is positioned upwardly of the horn switch mechanism 57 so as to push the mounting piece 53. Three doors, i.e., a front door 25, a left door 26 and a right door 27 are disposed in the opening forming portion 19. A thin to-be ruptured portion 33, or breakable portion, that can be ruptured is disposed around these doors 25, 26 and 27.

Please amend paragraph [0138] as follows:

When the left door 26 is opened around the hinge 30 as a rotation center, as shown in Fig.23, the upper portion 167a of the switch operating portion 167 is pushed by the door 26,

which ~~that~~ opens rapidly. Therefore, the to-be deformed portion 65b is plastically deformed, the support portion 65c of the support piece 65 rotates and moves around the to-be deformed portion 65b ~~such as to be~~ and is inclined toward the space AL. As a result, the switch operating portion 167 supported by the support portion 65c is disposed in ~~the~~ a non-limited region or a non-interfering position. This non-limited region is a region where the switch operating portion 167 does not limit the opening completion state of the door 26. Thus, the door 26 completes the opening operation in the widely opened state without being limited by the switch operating portion 167.